Resources for Students Who Have Experienced Sexual Misconduct

Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, Dating/Relationship Violence, Stalking, Sexual Exploitation, Retaliation

TitleIX.psu.edu

Talking to someone can be an important part of your healing process. Confidential support services are available to assist you on and off campus. No personal information is shared without your permission.

You have options if you choose to report an incident of sexual misconduct: 1) file a complaint with the Office of Sexual Misconduct Prevention & Response and/or 2) file a complaint with law enforcement.

Medical care is important, even if you feel no injury was sustained. Medical providers can assess your overall health needs, treat physical injuries, test for sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy, and collect evidence for legal proceedings. Staff are specifically trained and sensitive to your concerns.

For more information regarding available resources, support services, and procedural options please visit: TitleIX.psu.edu
### What happens next if/when the University has been notified of an incident of sexual or gender-based harassment or misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, and/or sexual exploitation)?

Reports of potential sexual or gender-based harassment or misconduct must be shared with the University’s Office of Sexual Misconduct Prevention & Response (OSMPR), unless first shared with a confidential employee (for example, a staff member in the Personal Counseling Services or Health Services). Once OSMPR receives this information, a staff person will typically contact the affected student to ask if they are interested in meeting to discuss their experience as well as the resources, support services, and procedural options that may be available to them in connection with the incident. The student is not obligated to respond to the e-mail or meet with anyone. If they do decide to meet to discuss the experience, the student will not be asked to talk about anything they are uncomfortable discussing, nor will they be pressured to do anything they do not want to do. The primary purpose of the meeting will be to assist the student in understanding their options and the University’s process for handling these kinds of incidents.

### Can I bring someone with me to a meeting with the Title IX Resource Person?

Yes. A student may bring a support person or advisor of their choosing to any meeting or conversation they have regarding their experience.

### What kind of help is available to me through the University?

Penn State is committed to providing ongoing support to individuals who experience incidents of sexual or gender-based harassment or misconduct. Students may be able to access a variety of resources and support services in connection with their experience, including:

- reasonable academic accommodations, including modifications to course or exam schedules, or coursework;
- housing modifications, including permanent or temporary room reassignments or the provision of a temporary safe space on campus;
- free confidential counseling and psychological support;
- access to free or low-cost healthcare options; and/or
- referrals to local community agencies for additional services.

Additional confidential and nonconfidential resources beyond those listed here may also be available. Students who are interested in learning more about these services should contact your campus Title IX Resource Person or one of the other resources identified on the front of this sheet.

### Will I be in trouble if I was drinking underage or using drugs when the incident happened?

No. Penn State wants to encourage students to freely report incidents of sexual or gender-based harassment and misconduct whenever they occur. Therefore, it is the University’s policy that students who act responsibly by reporting incidents of sexual or gender-based harassment and misconduct will not face University disciplinary action for their own drug or alcohol possession or consumption in connection with the reported incident.

### What if I am hesitant to talk about what happened because I am afraid that someone will retaliate against me?

Retaliation against anyone who reports an incident of sexual or gender-based harassment or misconduct, or who participates in a University process related to such an incident, is strictly prohibited under University policy. If you have any concerns about retaliation, you should discuss them with a staff member.